

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0047] Certain embodiments of the present invention provide a system and method for satellite communication with a hybrid payload. Certain embodiments of the present invention provide a data communication satellite with a hybrid (transponding and processing) payload. The satellite includes a hybrid communication payload providing signal transmission and minimal processing of the signal, an antenna for at least one of transmitting and receiving the signal, and a processor for intercepting a communication request. The processor generates a response to the communication request. The communication request may be generated by a user terminal. The processor may assign the communication request to a communication channel based on criteria. The criteria include available bandwidth and/or number of connection requests, for example. In an embodiment, the payload provides minimal processing of the signal. The payload may facilitate communication between a user terminal and a content provider or ground processing controller.